

Superintendent's Report - April 2025



L'ACTION FRANÇAISE!

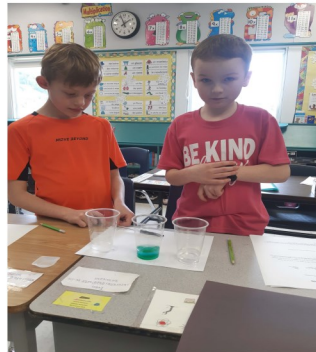
A Publication of Collettville 6 MSS French Immersion

April 7, 2025



Grade 4/5

M. Dugas came to the class to lead an experiment on saturation, where students found the saturation point or different substances, like salt & sugar. Merci M. Dugas!



LeFloFranco Concert

Several Southern Interior school districts collaborated to organize a French concert tour by the highly engaging artist known as Leflofranco. Students and educators recognize his music as they have explored some of his hit songs that were highlighted in the 2023 and 2024 Manie musicale competition brackets.

The first half of the tour took place in March with concerts in Merritt, Kamloops, Vernon and Salmon Arm. More than 2200 students enthusiastically participated by dancing and singing to his well known songs. What memorable concerts not to be soon forgotten!

Thanks to the ImmersArt grant and to the support from the Conseil culturel et artistique francophone de la Colombie-Britannique (CCAFCB), the Southern Interior Network representatives were able to work collaboratively to set up these amazing events for the French language learning students of the region!

Kindergarten & Grade 1

Recently, Division 6 has been enjoying Indigenous drumming with Mr. Willard Wallace. In this photo, the students are soaring like eagles. They are learning to move their bodies with expression, and incorporate animal-like characteristics.



Next time, their knowledge of beat and rhythm will be put to the test as they, themselves, will have an opportunity to try some drumming.

Grade 11

PEOPLE & CULTURE

50 ans de multiculturalisme au Canada :
être musulman au Canada

HISTORY

Après 50 ans de multiculturalisme : Qui est le gardien/la gardienne de l'identité canadienne ?

PEOPLE & CULTURE

50 ans de multiculturalisme : nous le faisons bien, sauf quand nous ne le faisons pas

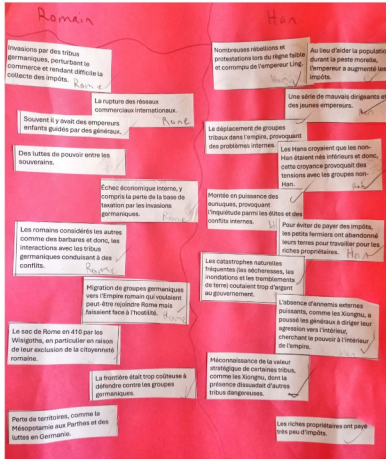
We started off the semester with a quick unit on why history and current world events must be studied through a variety of perspectives. We

then moved on to research skills. We focused on how to verify that an online source is a reliable source. The rest of the school year will be focused on understanding how Canada became a country know for its multiculturalism.



April 7, 2025

Grade 8



Our current focus is understanding why empires and societies collapse and how do they restructure themselves after a collapse. We are currently studying the collapse of the Roman Empire and the Han Dynasty which will lead into a study of the Dark Ages.

Helpful Links

The Bursaries for Postsecondary Studies in French as a Second Language Program, funded by the Government of Canada and administered by the Association des collèges et universités de la francophonie canadienne (ACUFC), aims to encourage students whose first official language spoken is English, to pursue their postsecondary studies in French. The objective is simple: Allow a greater number of English-speaking Canadians to become bilingual.

If your first official language spoken is English and you are pursuing your postsecondary studies in French in Canada, you could be eligible for a non-renewable \$3,000 bursary!

<https://acufc.ca/FSLbursaries/>



Handball



Our grade 4/5s got their first taste of elementary team sports. Handball was a short but very fun season! Our young athletes worked hard and had lots of success at both league games and their final tournaments. Un grand merci to our wonderful volunteer coaches/manager Mme Livesey, Mme Berthelet & Mme Sigurdsson. We very much appreciate your time & effort!

Grade 3



Our grade 3s took on fun STEM challenge before the break. Groups of students designed & produced a leprechaun shoe.

Science Fair

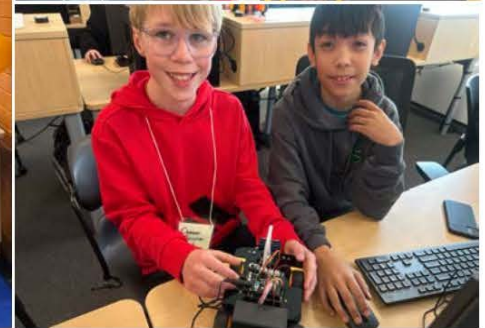


Our amazing science club members worked very hard to produce a variety of interesting projects for our school science fair. Students presented their work & findings to a panel of judges, parents and their peers in early March. The top projects/participants made a trip to Regionals in Kamloops; what an amazing experience! A big thank you to Mr Sambrook for your time and guidance given to our young scientist!



Regional Science Fair

April 1, 2025



Thirty Seven Nicola-Similkameen students from Bench, Collettville, Diamond Vale, Central and Nicola Canford represented our district Cariboo Mainline Regional Science Fair and performed very well. At the fair we had:

- Four Silver Metal Winners
- Eleven Bronze Metal Winners
- Four Cash Award Winners totalling \$475



All of the students were able to participate in the Science tours and activities arranged by TRU and were able to visit multiple areas of the science department. This is always a great opportunity for our students to not only explore their own scientific inquiry projects but to visit a great post secondary option for them in our local area.



John Allison Elementary School

PO Box 40 - 499 Corina Avenue Princeton BC, V0X 1W0

P 250-295-6727 F 250-295-6920

UPDATES

March 2025



#play

#JOY

#learn



#studentvoice One of our grade 3 students decided he wanted to raise awareness with our Kindergarteners and grade 1s about the JAE **#buddybench**

Buddy benches / friendship benches are designed to combat loneliness and bullying in schools. Children can sit on the bench to indicate that they are feeling lonely or isolated and need another child to reach out to them. This encourages students to look out for one another so no one feels left out.

#studentleadership



HANDS ON LEARNING @JAE Our Ks used skittles to learn about #colour



Inspired by **Frisbee Rob**, our JAE PAC got a grant and purchased mini frisbees for each of our students to decorate and take home.



FISH DISSECTION

HANDBALL



DRUM MAKING



Nicola Canford Elementary School



BRAILLE CHALLENGE

- Students have started practising on our Ninja Warrior Course for our month end competition
- Our language classes were able to watch an elder dissect a locally caught fish and describe the biological systems and the cultural importance of fishing
- We were very thankful for the two parent and former Canford students who took on the role as Handball coaches for our grade 4/5s
- Students learned how to lace a drum
- We are so proud of Bronson, who represented Nicola Canford at the BC Braille Challenge



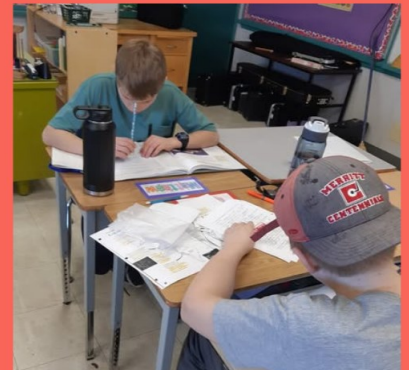
Collettville Elementary School

Les Chats Sauvages!

Cultural Connections



Div 1 Back on Track



Our kids continue to explore various aspects of Indigenous culture. We are fortunate to have Willard visit classrooms regularly to teach kids traditional songs and drumming.

We are so grateful for the leadership of Mme Sigurdsson, Mme Mackay-Smith, and Mme Berthelet as they work hard to provide this group with the high quality FIM education they deserve.



Handball Season Comes to a Close



Well done, Collettville Wild Cats, for placing 2nd at the district handball tournament!

A huge thank-you to our coaches and volunteers!

Diamond Vale



We are expecting the prep work for the new intermediate playground to start on April 14th and hope to see the playground fully installed by the end of April.

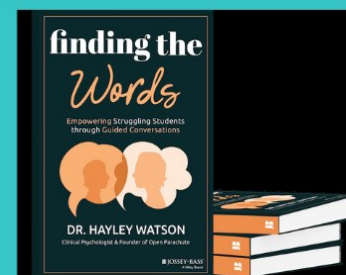


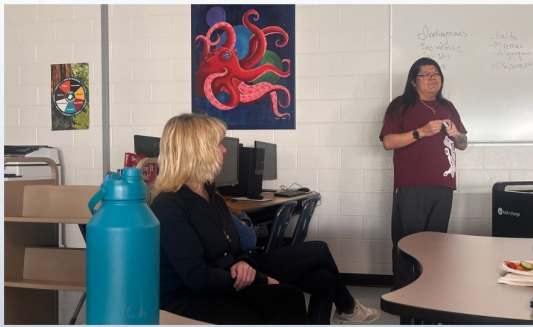
Our Grandfather teaching for this month is Wisdom. Using inspiration from the beaver, students will be learning to recognize the gifts they have and to use them to their greatest benefit.

Elementary rugby season is up and running and students played their first game against other schools on Thursday. Rugby is a new sport for many of our players, but they have stepped up and are enjoying the experience. There will be several more Merritt based games, as well as a trip to play Princeton next Friday.



Members of Diamond Vale staff are currently engaged in several after-school pro-d opportunities: 'Loose Parts' story workshops, 'Science of Reading' sessions, 'Finding the Words' book club (a book written by Dr. Hayley Watson who developed Open Parachute, a resource used for mental health education in schools), Q & A session with Popard, as well as an Indigenous culture and language workshop with Angela McIvor and team.





Staff enjoyed an Indigenous-focused professional development session on Mar.12 with Brandon Peters who shared their personal experience growing up in, and working in, the educational system of British Columbia as well as traditional teachings from the Coast Salish People.



Chris Gray visited Princeton Secondary School to share his personal journey and the challenges he had to overcome to become a professional wrestler. His talk emphasized themes of resilience and perseverance.

COMMUNITY GUESTS

The RCMP visited our Digital Literacy 8 class to share tips on how to protect our cybersecurity and personal information in an online world.



HANDS ON LEARNING

Our Trades in Training students began their 12 week sampler program where they will get the chance to be exposed to introductory elements of carpentry, joinery, plumbing, and building construction.



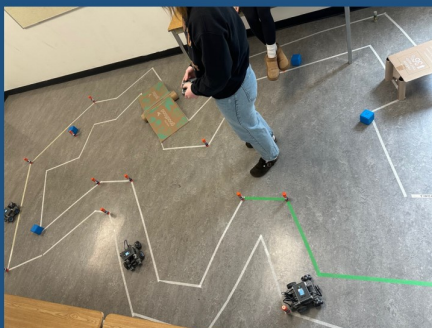
Our Gr.8s were involved in a community cleanup project helping brighten up our neighbourhood as Spring approaches



INNOVATIVE LEARNING



Science students learned about robotics and had the chance to test out remote controlled devices on obstacle courses they made!



VERMILION FORKS

GRADE 5 STUDENTS WERE INTRODUCED TO MICROSCOPES, LEARNING TO PREPARE SAMPLES ON SLIDES AND OPERATE THE MICROSCOPE



APRIL
EDITION

MRS. MCDONALD'S
GRADE 6/7 CLASS IS
STUDYING THE
FUNDAMENTALS OF
PHYSICAL AND
CHEMICAL REACTIONS



MS. KUNDERMAN/MARTIN'S CLASS TAPPED INTO
THEIR ARTISTIC SIDE, EXPERIMENTING WITH
THE DYNAMIC TECHNIQUE OF POINTILLISM



APRIL 2025

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

MERRITT BENCH ELEMENTARY



THIS MONTH...

- Penticton Secondary Jazz & Concert Band Visits Merritt Bench
- Primary students learn how to conduct 85 musicians--well done!



Mr. Cleaveley and parent volunteer-Mr. Puterbaugh coach intermediate Rugby



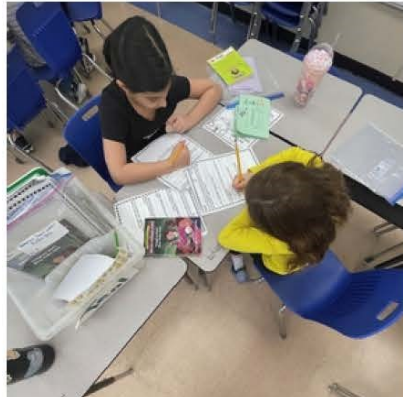
APRIL 2025

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

MERRITT BENCH ELEMENTARY

THIS MONTH...

- Primary Literacy Centers engage students--many thanks to our staff and parent volunteers
- Mrs. Kanigan creates a comfortable environment where students can collaborate.
- Mr. Denton introduces primary Students to a new novel.



APRIL 2025

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

MERRITT BENCH ELEMENTARY



MBE INTERMEDIATES- VISIT TRU IN LATE MARCH

- Skills Canada regional competitions at Thompson Rivers University--MBE students attend TRY A TRADE.
- Grade 6 and 7 students learn about: horticulture, heavy mechanical, plumbing, instrumentation, & welding programs at TRU.



- Mr. Schmid and Mr. Cleaveley's classes plan a trip to Nooaitch to learn about local traditions.
- Mr. Denton's Class learn how to make traditional medicine pouches this month

APRIL 2025

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

MERRITT BENCH ELEMENTARY



MARCH MULTICULTURAL DAY





Merritt Central Elementary School

Community Connections



Our intermediate teachers are always looking for creative ways to enrich students' physical health education, often utilizing local community resources like the swimming pool and bowling alley. These activities not only keep students engaged, especially just before a break, but they also show them places in the community where they can stay active and enjoy positive social experiences outside of school. The week before spring break, Mr. Shea and Mrs. Tolmie took their classes to the aquatic center, allowing students to dive into some water fun. Meanwhile, Mr. Gandy embraced the last bit of winter by taking his grade 6/7 class skating. These hands-on experiences are a fantastic way to promote fitness, teamwork, and a lifelong love of physical activity.

Spirit Day



We've always had Spirit Day on Fridays, where students proudly wear their gear or school colors—black and yellow. But now, we're *even more* excited to show off our brand-new school spirit wear! From hoodies and t-shirts to bags, our students and staff are rocking two amazing designs that feature our school mascot, the hawk. One design proudly displays *Merritt Central*, while the other celebrates the diversity of our community with "Welcome" written in nsilxcən, Nlaka'pamux, Métis, French, and English. It's a wonderful way for everyone to show their pride in both our school and our vibrant, inclusive community. We can't wait to see everyone sporting their new gear every Friday!

Leperchaun Traps/ St. Patrick's Day Shinanigans



Central School went all out to celebrate St. Patrick's Day this year! Teachers got into the festive spirit by creating beautiful artwork, while students participated in a variety of fun and creative activities. Some classes explored St. Patrick's Day through STEAM projects, building leprechaun traps, while others enjoyed surprise literacy activities and even a little school-appropriate chaos left behind by mischievous leprechauns. Mr. Gagliano truly embraced the holiday, going above and beyond by dressing up as a leprechaun himself. It was a day filled with fun, learning, and plenty of St. Patrick's Day cheer!

Seven Sacred Teachings Humility



Mr. Gagliano's class recently presented their learning on the Sacred Teaching of "Humility," guided by the support of ISA Jody John. Over the course of several weeks, the students listened to stories and participated in activities that helped them understand the true meaning of humility and its importance. After reflecting on their learnings, each student shared what humility means to them in a heartfelt presentation to the whole school. Their thoughtful insights revealed not only their deep understanding but also their ability to teach others. They were not just great learners—they were exceptional teachers as well!

Handball Tournament



Merritt Central School's grade 4/5 boys and girls handball teams, coached by Martha Chillihtzia and Brock Shea, once again displayed their dedication and skill during this year's handball season. This year, it was Martha's boys' team that brought home the 1st place certificate, a well-deserved victory after a season of hard work. Mr. Shea expressed immense pride in his girls' team, praising their effort and teamwork throughout the season, even though they were outplayed in the final. The boy's team stayed strong in their bodies and minds working as a solid team and exhibiting awesome sportsmanship during the season and continuing through the tournament. One moment that truly stood out during the tournament was when one of our boys' players helped an opposing player off the floor, after a fall, while the play was still in action. This act of kindness and sportsmanship was a testament to the strong values instilled in our athletes. It's moments like these that make us proud of our students, not just for their competitiveness, but for their character.

Mr. Shea's Grade 6/7 Class "Build a Shelter" Project



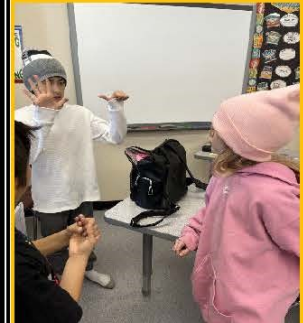
Mr. Shea's ADST "Build a Shelter" project is a perfect example of how he integrates multiple subjects, provides space for student choice, and connects learning to the real world. Throughout the project, students worked diligently, applying practical skills and creativity to design and construct their shelters. Once completed, they had the opportunity to proudly display and present their work to the entire school community, showcasing their hard work and the valuable learning experience they gained. Mr. Shea's innovative approach continues to inspire students and foster a hands-on, meaningful educational experience.

K/1 PJ Day and Teddy Bear Tea



Mrs. Meadows' K/1 class had a blast participating in Class PJ Day and their Teddy Bear Tea, an event that combined fun and learning in the coziest way! Students engaged in reading, writing, and drawing, sharing their work with their audience of Teddy Bears. This creative activity not only made academics enjoyable but also fostered a sense of community in the classroom, as students came together in a relaxed and comfy atmosphere. It was a wonderful opportunity to build connections while enhancing literacy skills in an exciting and playful setting.

Miss Matheson's Grade 4/5 Class: Learning with Energy and Innovation



Miss Matheson's class has been taking learning to the next level with some incredibly energetic and hands-on approaches to math! From crafting their own clocks to practicing multiplication, division, and fact families through exciting movement games, the students are having a blast while mastering important concepts. They've also been working with cut-out manipulatives to dive deeper into division, making math both interactive and fun. It's wonderful to see how these creative activities not only engage the students but also help them build a strong foundation in math through play and teamwork!